

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /094 W
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R 130056Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3145
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1091

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, RH
SUBJ: BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA APRIL 12 PRESS CONFERENCE

1. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 12, MISOFF ATTENDED PRESS
CONFERENCE ON BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL
COUNCIL (ANC). THE CONFERENCE, ATTENDED BY ABOUT 60 TO 70
PEOPLE, RECEIVED LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA COVERAGE
AND WAS SPONSORED BY UNITED METHODIST COMMUNICATIONS.

2. AFTER READING A SHORT PREPARED TEXT, MUZOREWA FIELD
QUESTIONS BY THE PRESS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE 5-POWER
WESTERN DE MARCHE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT, MUZOREWA
HESITATED AS THOUGH UNWITTING OF THE MOVE, THEN REPLIED
"WELL, IF THAT'S WHAT THEY DID, IT'S SAD. THERE WAS NOT
ENOUGH EMPHASIS." (APPARENTLY MEANING THAT THE DE MARCHE
DID NOT INCLUDE ZIMBABWE.) MUZOREWA SAID THAT HE HAD SEEN
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UK FONSEC OWEN LAST WEEK, BUT WOULD NOT COMMENT
ON BRITISH PLAN FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE
RHODESIAN PROBLEM, NOR ON OWEN'S REACTION TO THE ANC
PLAN FOR MAJORITY RULE.

3. MUZOREWA OFFERED AS AN ASIDE THAT THE SPLIT BETWEEN
JOSHUA NKOMO AND ROBERT MUGABE HAS LARGELY BEEN PROMOTED

BY THE PRESS AND THE FRONTLINE STATES AND THAT IT IS NOT AS GREAT AS HAS BEEN REPORTED. IN RESPONSE TO WHAT ROLE THE U.S. COULD PLAY, MUZOREWA STATED THAT DESPITE HIS REPEATED REQUESTS FOR HELP ON BEHALF OF THE ANC, HE HAS FACED A LACK OF WILL FROM THE WEST.

4. MUZOREWA STATED THAT HE HAD MET WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG FOR 1 1/2 HOURS ON APRIL 11 IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE PLAN TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA, BUT DECLINED TO COMMENT ON AMB YOUNG'S REACTIONS.

5. TEXT OF PRESS STATEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: BEGIN TEXT.

1. AS MANY OF YOU ARE UNDOUBTEDLY AWARE, SINCE THE FORMATION OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE (ANC-Z) IN DECEMBER 1971, I HAVE CONSISTENTLY CALLED FOR A CONSTITUTIONAL SOLUTION TO THE COLONIAL, RACIST AND FASCIST SITUATION IN RHODESIA. I WARNED AT THAT TIME THAT THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE BLOODSHED.

2. THE ANC MADE EVERY EFFORT TO APPEAL TO WORLD BODIES INCLUDING THE UNITED NATIONS, THE COMMONWEALTH, THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO WORK RELENTLESSLY TOWARDS THE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE.

3. AS NO ONE HEEDED THIS WARNING, TODAY WE FIND OURSELVES UNCLASSIFIED

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IN A SITUATION IN WHICH WE THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE LAUNCHED AND ARE CONTINUING A DEDICATED ARMED STRUGGLE AGAINST THE MINORITY REGIME AND ITS OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM. OUR PEOPLE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE ZIMBABWE HAVE DECIDED TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOAL TO TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL LIBERATION BY THE ONLY MEANS LEFT OPEN TO US, I.E., THE ARMED STRUGGLE.

4. THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE HAVE RESOLVED NEVER TO TOLERATE OPPRESSION ANY FURTHER AND ARE RESOLUTE TO FREE THEMSELVES NOW. CONSEQUENTLY, RHODESIA TODAY IS GRIPPED WITH A PROTRACTED NATIONAL WAR OF LIBERATION. THE WHOLE COUNTRY IS ENCIRCLED BY THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS. SOME AREAS ARE SEMI-LIBERATED. SMITH'S FORCES DARE NOT COME CLOSE TO SUCH AREAS. THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE SEE THE CONTINUATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE FOR THEIR LIBERATION AS IMPERATIVE BECAUSE SMITH'S RACIST REGIME IS STILL STUBBORN, INTRANSIGENT AND DEFIANT. SMITH IS EVIDENTLY UNWILLING TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE MAJORITY.

5. IN OUR VIEW, NOW IS THE VERY LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR SMITH TO SURRENDER POWER OR FACE THE INEVITABLE, NAMELY THE IMMINENT SEIZURE OF POWER BY THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE THROUGH THE ARMED STRUGGLE. THIS FINAL ONSLAUGHT WILL ECLIPSE ALL THOSE THAT ARE BEING USED IN SUPPORTING A DYING RACIST AND FASCIST SYSTEM. NOW, IS THE VERY LAST CHANCE TO PREVENT CATASTROPHY, BLOODSHED AND SUFFERING THAT WILL FOLLOW THE FINAL ONSLAUGHT.

6. EVEN AT THIS LATE STAGE, WE IN THE ANC HAVE PUT FORWARD A WORKABLE PLAN THAT WE ARE CONVINCED CAN AND WILL BRING ABOUT THE DESIRED CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENT WAR. THE PLAN WAS ADOPTED (MARCH 27, 1977) BY 5,000 DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER ZIMBABWE REPRESENTING BRANCHES, DISTRICTS, AND PROVINCES OF THE ANC.

7. THE PLAN IS AS FOLLOWS:

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POINT 1: THAT MR. SMITH CATEGORICALLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY SURRENDERS POLITICAL POWER AND AUTHORITY TO BLACK MAJORITY IMMEDIATELY.

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POINT 2: THAT ALL PERSONS AT PRESENT IN DETENTION, UNDER RESTRICTION, BEING HELD AS POLITICAL PRISONERS, IN THE SO-CALLED PROTECTED VILLAGES, BE RELEASED AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE FREELY IN THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM WHICH WE ARE CALLING FOR UNDER THE NEXT POINT.

POINT 3: THAT HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT IN BRITAIN, TAKING HER DECOLONISATION ROLE AND URGENTLY, AND ACTING BY HERSELF OR THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND/OR THE COMMONWEALTH, MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. ENSURE THAT THERE IS FREE POLITICAL ACTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,

2. REPEATING THE PRECEDENT SET OVER THE PEARCE COMMISSION, ORGANIZE AND SUPERVISE A NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO ELECT A NATIONAL LEADER TO WHOM MR. SMITH WILL HAND OVER POWER.

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POINT 4: THAT FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED FOR ALL ZIMBABWEANS, WHEREVER THEY MAY BE AND INCLUDING NATIONALIST GUERRILLAS, TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM.

POINT 5: THAT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THEREAFTER, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT CONVENES A FULL CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE TO WORK OUT AND FINALISE THE DETAILS OF THE INDEPENDENCE CONSTITUTION.

8. SOME MISCHIEVOUS PEOPLE WHOSE INTENTION CAN ONLY BE TO MALIGN US HAVE TRIED TO LINK US WITH WHAT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AS THE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT". WE NEITHER NEED AN "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD ENTRENCH SMITH'S RACIST REGIME NOR A "EXTERNAL SETTLEMENT" STAGE MANAGED BY SELF-APPOINTED KIND MAKERS AND MASTERMINDED BY VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE FORCES OF IMPERIALISM. THE ANC IS AFTER ONE MAIN GOAL: TOTAL AND UNCONDITIONAL MAJORITY RULE NOW, I.E., IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE TRANSFER OF POWER FROM THE WHITE SETTLER MINORITY REGIME TO THE MAJORITY.

9. WE CALL FOR A NATIONAL REFERENDUM TO CHOOSE A NATIONAL LEADER BY THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE AS A WHOLE, I.E., THE BLACKS, THE WHITES, THE COLOURED AND THE ASIANS. AT THIS REFERENDUM ANY LEGITIMATE CONTENDER CAN STAND. THE PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM IS IN DIRECT CONTRAST WITH A REFERENDUM TO CHOOSE A RACIAL LEADER. THE NATIONAL

LEADER CHOSEN IN THIS NATIONAL REFERENDUM WOULD BE CHARGED
WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING THE TRANSITIONAL
GOVERNMENT.

10. WE APPEAL TO ALL PEOPLE OF GOODWILL EVERYWHERE TO SUPPORT
THE ANC'S CONCRETE AND WORKABLE PLAN. ITS IMPLIMENTATION
WILL OPEN A NEW CHAPTER TO PREACE AND PROGRESS IN THE
WAR-TORN LAND OF ZIMBABWE. WE STRONGLY APPEAL TO THE FORCES
OF GOOD INTENTION AND THE POWERS CONCERNED TO HELP US,
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BY SUPPORTING THIS MASTER PLAN, TO STOP FURTHER LOSS OF
LIFE AND OF PEOPLE'S PROPERTY, DESTRUCTION OF THE ECONOMY,
AND A DANGEROUS DETERIORATION OF RACE RELATIONS. ALL THE
POWERS CONCERNED MUST FORTHWITH TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION
AND STOP THEIR CITIZENS WHO ARE PROLONGING THE LIFE OF
SIMITH'S RACIST REGIME BY ENLISTING IN THE SO-CALLED
SECURITY FORCES AS MERCENARIES.

BISHIP MUZOREWA
ANC-Z PRESIDENT
NEW YORK APRIL 12, 1977

END TEXT. UNQUOTE.
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Message Attributes

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